

RADIO ARGUS KERNOW. WHAT HAPPENED.

In May I visited the station in Cornwall, and came away with a great sense of disappointment.

The station had not made a broadcast since March, and that one had turned into a fight on the air.

The problems are complex, and seem to revolve around a lot of bickering and pettiness, much of which, it must be said comes from the station's boss, James Halstead.

The station has had all the help and assistance it could want over the past few years, and this has ranged from Ray Trevone allowing the use of his fishing boat to relay the Helston FM service onto MW, from offshore, in Mounts Bay. A farmer allowing them the use of his land near Wendron, for other MW relays, and the goodwill of the London station. They still have the FM rig I brought down in the early 90's, unless James really has smashed it to bits!

Bill Lyons, Lyn Alders and James Griggs, who had left the station in the late 80's to try for a 'legal' Radio Argus, in the Truro area, [which was to have been relayed across the county by the free service], had returned, thoroughly pissed off with the way the Radio 'Authority' works, and more than ever determined to fight for a change in the system, but James Halstead, who had virtually been on his own for years, following the tragedy in 1989, and the staff leaving, was in no mood to welcome them back, and I had to intercede a year or so ago, on their behalf. The first words the returning DJs said on the air, was an apology for trying for a licence, and a condemnation of their actions, and the actions of anyone else who does so. This was part of the deal, and they fulfilled it. [This has now been incorporated into all Argus rules, by the way.]

Bill got Ray to allow the use of his boat, while Lyn rounded up, and persuaded other ex DJs who had left after the 1989 tragedy to return, Ginny Wilson, Sid Jackall and Sue Pascoe were to swell the staff numbers still further.

All was looking rosy, which means something is going to go wrong where Argus is involved. This time the problems came from within.

James Halstead, presumably, felt left out of all the improvements, although he was always considered the boss. His antics recently have been getting worse, and his insults have led to Ray throwing the AM rig overboard, and Sue Pascoe resigning.

I arrived at the pub where the meeting was to take place, along with Vince Jefferson, of the now defunct Gloucester station.

As the other staff turned up, James arrived, and immediately the rows started.

Bill called for a vote on whether James should be sacked. Vince, Ginny and Myself voted no, but all the rest voted yes.

Bill then explained that James' latest foible was to charge DJs for the use of the FM rig, by the hour.

I pointed out that this was really my rig, that it had cost me £100, and I certainly hadn't let James have it if he was going to do this. Vince, who, like myself hadn't known of the charging, agreed, and pointed out that this was against the station rules in any event.

I then offered to bring down the 1593kHz rig, once the London station had completed its move back to 1125, but James then insulted me, saying I was trying to throw rigs at the problem.

I asked what the real problem was, for James had certainly changed since I saw him last. He didn't respond, but Sue said that it was due to Jane Brown getting a job in Ireland, and leaving. While James denied this had anything to do with it, few of us believed him.

James also said that he had smashed up the FM rig I had brought down, and the station was dead. He didn't want to hear anymore about it, and if anyone tried to bring it back, and he got to hear about it, he would track it down and smash it up, or grass it up.

After that, several people got up and left.

The station now consists of Bill Lyons, Lyn Alders, Ginny Wilson and Ray Trevone. I have offered them spots on the ShortWave, once we start a regular service up, and we all intend to re-start the Cornish station, after the dust has settled a bit.

In the meantime James, of whom I once had the highest regard, [he, myself and Bill were after all on the original team], appears to be somewhat unbalanced. He was certainly drinking a lot, but didn't appear to get overly drunk. Jane's leaving may have pushed him over the edge, but I don't know, nor does anyone else.

Radio Argus Kernow will return, but not just yet. We feel it wiser to let things settle down a bit first.

Bert.

STATION FINDING by Bill Lyons and Bert Bridges

In view of recent problems in Cornwall, perhaps now is a good time to look into how a free radio station is funded.

There are three main ways.

1. The DJs pay the manager for the use of the equipment etc. This can vary, from being a 'one-off' payment for the rig, repeated every time a new one is needed, to a regular system, whereby each DJ pays per show.

2. The manager buys the equipment, and nobody pays anyone.

3. The manager pays the DJs

There are advantages and disadvantages to each of the above. Here at Radio Argus, we employ the second way. The manager pays for the rigs, etc, and, while donated equipment is not turned away, it isn't asked for either. Engineering is either paid for in cash or in kind, for example, Radio Antares' engineer will be doing the tweaking etc. of the London stn's SW rigs, and in return they will be using the rigs as well. The same goes for stations who locate sites for us, their programmes being carried, while their sites are being used.

The First way, would seem to be a good one. If the staff are paying, then they will be putting everything into the effort, surely?

The problem with this system, is that some petty-minded staff will be watching the minutes of each show like hawks, and will demand 'fair airtime'. This can get bogged down in the amount of potential listeners at any hour of the day. If a raid occurs will the unplayed shows form 'credit' for when the station returns? If the power is different with a new rig shouldn't the fee change with the coverage area? If it's on FM, shouldn't there be different fees if it is or isn't in stereo? The list is endless.

Not only that, but the management and direction of the station suffer, and the sound of the station ends up a mish-mash and compromise, going nowhere.

In the end, the station dissolves into a lot of silly squabbles and damaged egos, with people not talking to each other, and slagging each other off.

The Third way is all well and good, and there are many loyal staff on many stations who turn up regularly, risking raids and so on, who do not get paid, but whose 'legal' contemporaries are raking in millions for producing the same end result - music on the radio. The former people, of course deserve to be paid, and if the money was there, would be paid, although other staff may see free radio as an ideal, or a fight, and would not want the money to start with. In our case, I try and organise piss-ups every payday, which, although far from ideal, hopefully shows the staff they are appreciated.

In Cornwall's case, the station ran the same way as all the other Argus stations, until recently. Nobody paid anybody, and everybody pulled together equally, with James as boss.

A small donation was paid to Ray, for the use of his boat, but after a month or so, he said he didn't want any more, unless he was actually raided, and if he could have a show, he wouldn't want any money then either. Quite why James Halstead should suddenly change to charging is a mystery, and it has wrecked the station.

If you, gentle reader, are considering setting up a station, consider carefully the way you do it. To ask for money means you are putting new staff on an equal or even higher level of authority than yourself, and they may have opposite ideas to you on the music and presentation of the station. The result at best will be a compromise nobody wants, at worst the station will not make it.

If you start paying staff, can you keep doing so? A few heavy bills can destroy the best laid plans, and a raid and/or fine could put you in the red. Then what do you do? Stop paying? This will in one way, show you who are doing it for love, and who is doing it for money, but you could end up losing all your staff.

The other way means you pay for everything. This isn't really as daunting as it seems. Second hand studio equipment, got from boot-fairs can sound just as good as brand new, and if you are raided, you haven't lost out so badly. The dti will take away a £200 NAD turntable, as easily as a £15 second-hand Garrard or BSR - they won't care - but you will...

The rig itself can be the most expensive item. Get friendly with other stations, and go along to their piss-ups. Find out if their engineer can help you out - offer him a show, even if he doesn't play what you like, grin and bear it - he will build you a rig for either cost price, or nothing in return!

AMDS, INTERNET RADIO WITHOUT THE PHONE BILLS

by Dave Fuller

As you know, I've been down the pub over the last year or so, investigating the possibilities of broadcasting over the nerdnet.

[Hic!] Well I'm back, and I've brought your worst nightmare with me... No, not Claire-the internet... pause for sharp intake of breath... and Focush!

AMDS stands for Amplitude Modulation Digital Stereo, and will be brought to you by the Modem and N-Pegs, the nerd's pirate digital compression system.

Readers may be gobsmacked by the idea of modem noise on the MW band. I too, think this is the last bastion of easy, accessible free-to-air broadcasting, so after a few short tests, a place on Short Wave will be found.

The problem was one of having to constantly update our 'site', thus keeping the phone line open all of the broadcast time. The establishment would therefore have made loads of money, and now the Artist Protection rackets are getting in on the act too.

The team has carried out some low-powered tests and by the time this is printed a temporary site should be up and running: Saturday's RAM 220 will be in AMDS, on 1386 MW, and Sunday's will be a repeat in normal AM. The digital feed will then transfer to a SW frequency planned around 15MHz.

Two services are planned in AMDS, a real-time radio station - Sundays on SW running alongside the 1386 AM service - and a full web site download service, which will not be interactive.

Persons remaining anonymous have suggested www bandwidth stealing. We looked at this, but the telecoms establishments would still ultimately win, so the idea was not taken up. [Thanks anyway, to the folks who supplied the info... keep on hacking!]

That's AMDS explained, now on to a different subject...

Radio Argus's 'Foreign Policy' is now well under way, and we sure are gonna teach them Turks a lesson. As long as the barbaric interference [on 1584] to Radio Argus listeners [on 1593] in the Bow and surrounding areas continue, the airwave war will go on. My apologies for supplying the wrong maps last month, I purchased them from the acting Tibetan Peoples Revolutionary Council under good faith, with a money back guarantee, and I did ask where the Bow Flyover was. Incidentally, they told me the map was hand-drawn just weeks before the structure was completed. My apologies also to the three American tourists who recently bought the 'Fuller Guide to Yugoslavian Pubs' 1966 edition. My mistake, lads, sorry!

The unfortunate incident regarding the Leytonstone Green Man block [demolished] is much regretted, but airwave wars are dirty business, and the 'Fuller Aerial' normally does no harm to structure at all... One of the three 'Rock to Rock' blocks is still standing, after all! [The pulling down of the blocks opposite Leyton Orient, and the Hackney Marshes, and the boiler blowing up at Ward Point, Kennington, just yards from the famous Brittany Point -site of many Fuller aerial broadcasts- have ALL been COINCIDENTAL!] 225kHz Test transmissions from the Long Wave site on the [now crumbling] M4 flyover have been postponed!

In closing, please pass my regards on to Felix Marston, and my apologies for his barge. It was used to shore up the [collapsing] Heathrow Express tunnel after Bridges' Long Wave earthspikes caused the cave-in! I had to scupper it to stop up leakages into the tunnel, something we have used with some success with the Jubilee Line extension, and a couple of old Russian Submarines...

Now, who's round is it...?

Editor's note... The earthspikes were bought cheaply from a reputable company, which has in the past supplied precision made pipes to various middle eastern states, and had to have a clearance sale a few years ago!

BY THE WAY... a man goes to his doctor, puzzled. He has been away in the army for the past two years, and has just arrived home to find his wife has recently had a baby.

'Ah,' says the doctor. 'That will be what we call a grudge baby.'

'What the hell's a grudge baby?' asks the soldier

'It's where somebody had it in for you.' replies the doctor.

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FREQUENCY LISTS

THE USUAL RULES APPLY, NO SINPOS OR CONTACT ADDRESSES, JUST FREQUENCY, STN NAME, WHO HEARD IT, PROGRAMME CONTENT AND COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

THE ONLY LICENSED SERVICES LISTED ARE THEIR HARMONICS, OR IF RELAYED BY A FREE SERVICE. PHONES AND BEACONS ARE ALSO LISTED, IF LOGGED. ARGUSNEWS HAS ALWAYS PUBLISHED THIS LIST ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT STATIONS MENTIONED IN IT HAVE BEEN CONTACTED BY THE LOGGER(S), INFORMING THEM THAT THEY WILL BE MENTIONED IN ARGUSNEWS.

We do not accept QSLs as evidence of anything, other than an ego-trip.

This issue, we have divided up the bands, to make things a bit tidier. [before anyone complains, 1611khz is in the MW list, because most domestic analogue and some digital radios can tune there - some can even do higher, but this is probably a bit too far!] *italics.= planned service*

KHZ	STATION NAME	LOGGERS	COMMENTS	FROM
LONG WAVE - 144 - 495 khz				
225	planned-DFCM	not logged this period	M4 flyover site abandoned	GB
270	planned-Radio Antares	not logged this period	looking for suitable site	GB
270	planned-Radio Argus Ldn	not logged this period	looking for suitable site	GB
277	BEACON 'CHT'	BEBR,OSCATIBA	FROM CHALFONT	GB
279	Radio Delmare	BORD	Kite aerial see article	NL
395	BBC RADIO 4 LW	TIBA	HARMONIC 12x198 KHZ	GB

Frank [R.Delmare] tells me that he uses a kite aerial for LongWave, and the signal was heard over a huge area. The discovery of a possible site in North Kent, around the Sittingbourne area, means that this experiment could be replicated, by ourselves, using the Galaxy idea of a generator for power, and a helium filled weather balloon instead of a kite.

KHZ	STATION NAME	LOGGERS	COMMENTS	FROM
MEDIUM WAVE - 495 - 1611khz				
545	BEACON 'LIC'	TORE	FROM LICHFIELD?	GB
783	planned-R.Argus Ldn	not logged this period	Metal service, 'Brainscan 383'	GB
819	RFL	BEBR,HULJ,OSCA	usual old 2hr loop-tape	GB
846	planned-R.Argus Ldn	not logged this period	Classic Rock 'Britain Radio 355'	GB
1125	Radio Argus [Planet 266] OSCA		test for 'Planet 266' sun service	GB
1188	planned-Pipeline '259'	not logged this period	ex. Josephine, ex Sandy, ex etc.	GB
1350	planned-Radio Antares	not logged this period	speech based progs	GB
1388	AMDS	os reports	see article J.PEG data	GB
1386	planned-Radio Argus	not logged this period	RAM 220, part Argus, part AMDS	GB
1440	UK Radio	os reports [from SW]	also on SW and VHF FM, see article	GB
1570	Balalaika Radio	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1575	Laser hot Hits 1c1	BEBR	weekends, rock stn, Kent	GB
1580	Blond Zeeman	DETA	Dutch	NL
1593	Radio Argus London	DETA,DAFU,HULJ,OSCA	to be abandoned for 1125	GB
1593	planned-Laser HH/c1?	not logged this period	alternative to 1575 if RSL is on?	GB
1593	MEEQRA FM	PIPI	POSS. PIRATE RELAY?	NL
1593	NATO JAMMER [REFI]	DETA,OSCA	EXTENDED NIGHTIME HRS	D
1607/8	Texta Cowboy	DETA,OSCA	Country, Nederlandstalige	NL
1609	unid	DETA	Greek station	HE
1611	Radio Argus London	DETA,OSCA	some nights, avoiding Jammer	GB
1611	Radio Antares	DETA	Speech based programmes	GB

If all the planned services above go ahead, along with the existing ones, this will be the possible start of a MW golden age... and about time too!

KHZ	STATION NAME	LOGGERS	COMMENTS	FROM
1621	unid	DETA	Greek station	HE
1630	Radio Barones	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1630	Mustang	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1632	De Spin	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1632	Nova 4	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1633	Toekomst	DETA	Dutch vocals	NL
1633	Electron Radio	DETA	pop	NL
1633	Vroomshoeps Texas	DETA	[rare] Nederlandstalige	NL
1633	Grote Verzieder	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1633	Ijsselstein	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1633	Weduwe	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1633	Atletico	DETA	mixed music styles *see article	NL

1634	Grote Verzieder	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1634	Toekomst/Joker/B.Buldog	DETA	Joint prog. Polkas	NL
1634	Monte Carlo	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1634	Union Radio	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1634/5	Radio Mi Amigo	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1635	Tubantia	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1635	Atletico	DETA	mixed music styles *see article	NL
1635	Mustang	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1635	unid	DETA	regular, weak signal noted	??
1635/6	De Spin Radio	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1635	Radio Barones	AXRO,DOSH,OSCA,SIGO	Hai! Hai! Ha!! [as usual - OSCA]	NL
1636	De Graaf	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1636	New Mexico	DETA	not heard for 7 years!	NL
1636	Casanovas	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1636	Mexicano	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1636	Caroline	DETA,OSCA	pop and NLstalige	NL
1636	Radio Monte Carlo	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1636	Achterhoeks Zender	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1636	Zwarte Non	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1636	Zendster Caroline	DETA	pop+Dutch, Young Lady DJ	NL
1636	Henk en Dinnie	DETA	Mixed music styles	NL
1636	Internos	DETA	Golden Oldies	NL
1636	Mario	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1636	Radio Utopia	DETA,DOSH,OSCA	pop	NL
1636	Ocean Stormer	DETA	90% Nederlandstalige	NL
1636	Kluizenaars	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1636	Torpedoijger	DETA,OSCA	99% Nederlandstalige, QSOs	NL
1636	Tijdbrekker	OSCA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1636	Radio Verona	DETA	90% Nederlandstalige	NL
1636	Caballero	DETA	Polkas	NL
1636	Calimero	DETA	Rare! NLstalige	NL
1636	El Paso Radio	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1636	Radio Veldmuis	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1636	Spanningzoeker Radio	DETA,OSCA	mixed music styles	NL
1636	Bizon	DETA	Rare! NLstalige	NL
1636	Radio Kristal	DETA	60s and mixed music styles	NL
1636	Schaduwjager	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1636	Radio Concordia	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1636	Barracuda	DETA	Rare! NLstalige	NL
1636	Havanna	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1636	Valkenburg	DETA	Rare! NLstalige	NL
1636	Black Power Radio	DETA	pop	NL
1636	Radio Kristal	DETA	pop	NL
1636	Rona Lieza	AXRO	schlager... Pirate songs	NL
1636	Radio Blackbeard	DETA,DOSH	pop	GB
1636	Radio Bluebird	DETA	Rock	D
1636/7	Blauwe Bulldog	DETA	Rare! Polkas	NL
1637	Radio 807	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1637	Spakenburg	DETA	New! mixed music styles	NL
1637	Torpedoijger	DETA	89% Nederlandstalige	NL
1637	D.B.Radio	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1637	Atletico	DETA	mixed music styles *see article	NL
1637	Rona Lieza	DETA	Rare! NLstalige	NL
1637	Toekomst	DETA	Polkas, NLstalige	NL
1637/8	Radio Mi Amigo	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1638	Doctor Blow	DETA	rare! pop [Great name! ed]	NL
1638	Zonnester	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1638	Caballero	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1638	Gouden Ster	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1638	Armada	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1638	Radio Veldmuis	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1638	Goodenster	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1638/9	Radio Talisman	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1639	Bizon	AXRO	Polka, from Oldenzaal	NL
1639/40	Radio Monte Carlo	DETA,JEBU	1639 heard in Canada! NLstalige	NL
1639/40	Doctor Blow	AXRO,DETA,DOSH,OSCA	rare! pop	NL
1640	Atletico	DETA	mixed music styles *see article	NL
1640	Buldog	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1640	Verona	DETA	Zutphen... Rare!	NL

1640	Verona	DETA	Zutphen... Rare!	NL
1640	Anton	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1640	Radio Veldmuis	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1640	Calimero	DETA	Rare! NLstalige	NL
1640	Golfbreker	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1640	Sylvania	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1640	Blauwe Vogel	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1641	Vrije Vogel	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1641	Electron Radio	DETA	pop	NL
1641	Radio Monte Carlo	OSCA	splattered by cordless phones	NL
1641/2	Anton	DETA	mixed music styles, 80s pop	NL
1641/2	De Spin radio	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1642	Grote Verzieder	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1643	Radio Antonio	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1643	De Spin/Sterenboog	DETA	Joint prog. NLstalige	NL
1644	Johan	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1644	Rode Pimpernel	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1644/5	R.Caroline	DETA,OSCA	Nederlandstalige and pop	NL
1644/5	Sterenboog Radio	DETA,OSCA	splattered by c'less phones[OSCA]	NL
1645	Doctor Blow	DETA	rare! 60's pop	NL
1645	Radio Barones	DETA,DOSH,OSCA	mixed music styles	NL
1645	Sallandseboer Radio	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1645	Schaduwjager	DOSH	dutch pop	NL
1645	Spanningzoeker Radio	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1645	R.Carolina	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1645	Mexicano Radio	DETA	pop	NL
1645	Union Radio	DETA	pop	NL
1645	Kontakt Radio	DETA	speech only	NL
1645	Toulouse	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1645	Sunshine Radio	DETA	mixed Dutch and English	NL
1645	Hertog Jan	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1645	Radio Noordzee	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1645	Spankenburg	DETA	New! NLstalige	NL
1645	D.B.Radio	DETA	Hawaiian and mixed music	NL
1645	Barracuda	DETA	Rare! mixed music styles	NL
1645	Radio Atlantis	DETA	pop	NL
1645/6	Radio Monte Carlo	DETA,OSCA	Dutch stuff	NL
1646	Radio Delmare	DETA	simulcast with 3924/3925, rock	NL
1646	Grote Beer	DETA	New, Nederlandstalige	NL
1646	Radio Kristal	DETA,DOSH,OSCA	Engl. NL pop	NL
1646	R.Johan	AXRO,OSCA	Good Signal noted	NL
1646	Stormvogel	DETA	Nederlandstalige	NL
1646	Kilo Romeo	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1647	Anton	DETA	pop	NL
1647	Victoria	DETA	mixed music styles	NL
1647	Zwarte Dorus	DETA	Rare! NLstalige	-
1647	Radio Bluebird	DETA,OSCA	Rock	D
1647	Johan	DOSH	music and QSO	NL
1648	Radio Utopia	AXRO,DETA	Golden Oldies	NL
1650	Radio Antares	BEBR,DETA,GUGI,WIPH	Speech based programmes	GB
1650	Radio Argus London	HULJ,OSCA	Test. [ch. now abandoned for 1620] GB	GB
1650	Zendster Nicola	DETA	pop	NL
1650	Zwarte Johnny	DETA	Polkas	NL
1650	Caroline	DETA	pop	NL
1656	ARROW 228	BORD,FRDE	HARMONIC [2x828 KHz]	NL
1657	unid	DETA	Greek station	ID
1710	BBQ R.LANCASHIRE	DETA	HARMONIC [2x855 KHz]	GB
1800	planned- Radio 1800	not logged this period		NL

Expansion of services in the Dutch band have no doubt, been in part due to the change of the Dutch Law, which effectively means the authorities there cannot touch a rig that is not actually transmitting. Nonetheless, it hasn't helped "ATLETICO RADIO", which has been raided recently. Bad luck, Atletico, Do you want us to put out some taped progs for you on 1620khz, from GB until you can get re-established?

This band is also seen as better than Tropical bands by some stations, who see two audiences. Those whose MW radios can tune up to the high 1600's on local ground-wave as well as distant listeners on the skip... Holland to Canada...! Well done Monte Carlo [and Greetings!]

S.W. TROPICAL BANDS - 1800 - 5000 kHz

3905	Galaxy International	AXRO,DOSH,OSCA,SIGO,TORE	Mobile O.B. [Generator] see article GB
3905	Sierra Sierra	AXRO,OSCA	Paul Stewart GB
3905	Subterranean Sounds	AXRO,DOSH	Steve Midnight prog GB
3905	SWRS	DOSH	80's pop I
3910	Reflections Europe	DOSH,OSCA	Crap[DOSH], Religious broadcasts IRL
3910	I.M.R.	SIGO	Ger. Engl. music CH
3910	Borderhunter	DOSH,OSCA	oldies[DOSH], test, good signal[OSCA] IRL
3910	Transatlantic Radio	AXRO,OSCA,SIGO	NL and Engl. mix Radio contest[AXRO] NL
3910	Radio Korak	DETA,DOSH,OSCA	Golden Oldies NL
3911	Radio Blackbeard	OSCA	Norris Davidson GB
3920	AMDS	os reports	N.PEG data, see article GB
3920	Radio Korak	AXRO,DETA,DOSH,OSCA,SIGO	Mixed music styles NL
3920	Sierra Sierra	DOSH,TORE	Pop, chat GB
3920	Radio Dr. Tim	DOSH	Polka D
3924/5	Radio Delmare	DETA	simulcast with 1646. rock NL
3930	Laser H H [b]	DETA,DOSH,HULJ,OSCA	Pop. [I] Could do better-OSCA! IRL
3934/5	Voice of the Netherlands	OSCA,SIGO	Engl. music and announcements NL
3935	SWRS	SIGO	Ger. Engl. some continuous music I
3935	TIOS	SIGO	via SWRS I
3935	FRSH	SIGO	via SWRS I
3935	VOSD	SIGO	via SWRS I
3935	Rock It Radio	SIGO	via SWRS I
3935	Scream of the Butterfly	SIGO	via SWRS [brilliant name! ed] I
3938	Ijsselpiraat	DOSH	pop -instrumental crap NL
3938/9	Firma Jan Duin	AXRO,DETA,DOSH,SIGO,TORE	Pop and polkas NL
3940	Torenvalk Radio	AXRO	Info, free stns in NL history NL
3940	Radio Dr. Tim	DETA	Strange nasal mutterings [tut! ed] D
3940	Radio Blackbeard	AXRO,OSCA,SIGO	depressed? [OSCA] dance[AXRO] GB
3940	Radio Benelux	AXRO	fake stns a prob. in Germany D
3940	Radio Bluestar	SIGO	Ger. music D?
3940	Radio Borderhunter	OSCA	been in hospital B
3945	Subterranean Sounds	DOSH,OSCA,SIGO	test, phone -in prog, Stereolab GB
3947	The Magic Spell	DETA,DOSH,OSCA	back after 9 months, see article GB
3947	Subterr.Sds+Magic Spell	SIGO	Engl. music GB
3985	Southern Music R.	SIGO	NZ music ?
3985	Radio Fantasy	SIGO	Ger. music ?
3985	Radio 510 Int	SIGO	Winterfeast USA, Kuipsville mtg ?
3985	Radio Flamingo	SIGO	Engl. Ger. music ?

S.W. EUROPEAN BANDS - 5000 - 8000 KHZ

5773	Radio Pamela	DOSH,TORE	Pop and rock GB
5773	Laser HH [c]	os reports	relayed via R.Pamela, rock GB
5794	BBMS	DOSH,OSCA	assorted music, old TV ads[DOSH] IRL
5800	BBMS	OSCA	German prog. IRL
5805	RFL	DOSH,HULJ,OSCA,SIGO	T.Randall at high speed[OSCA] GB
5824	XTC	OSCA	Speech/ pop, see article GB
5835	Radio Armadillo	OSCA,DOSH	Test, Wizard mentioned, see article GB
5835	R.Free Enterprise	OSCA	Test'blue, glowing valves' I " GB
5835	R.Antares Int	DETA,DOSH,FRDE,TIBA	carrier test, see article GB
5835	R.Argus Int	DETA,DOSH,FRDE,TIBA	carrier test, see article GB
5835?	planned-Laser HH[c]? not logged this period	see article	rock GB
5835?	planned-R.Recharge Int not logged this period	see article	country GB
6195	BBMS	DOSH	Pop, via Ozone IRL
6196	R.Caroline Dublin	TORE	Relay via Ozone Radio IRL
6195/6	Ozone Radio	DOSH,TORE	Own programmes ,instrumentals IRL
6196.6	Ozone Radio	OSCA	Relays of Dublin FM stns IRL
6199	BBMS and Ozone	OSCA	Assorted programming IRL
6200	Subterranean Sounds	OSCA	Good chat, Different music GB
6200	Radio Borderhunter	OSCA	Monday broadcast.. Excellent! B
6200	Radio Pandora	OSCA	chuckling... GB
6200	XTC	OSCA	Tommy Teabags... see article. GB
6205	Galaxy International	DOSH,OSCA	Test tx [2 car+Generator OB] GB
6207	Radio Pandora	OSCA	still chuckling... see article GB
6209/10	Armadillo	DOSH	70's pop, Rock see article GB
6210	Radio Marabu	DOSH,OSCA,SIGO,TORE	Don't mention the war [OSCA] D?
6210	Extra FM?	DOSH	non stop 80's NL
6219/20	Laser H H [b]	DOSH,OSCA,SIGO	pop, uninspiring, sorry[OSCA] IRL
6235	Radio Cochigaz	OSCA,TORE	Latin American, via JRRI IRL
6235	JRRI	DOSH	banjo music IRL

6240	Radio Bandonica	SIGO	NL. music NL?
6240	Radio Brigitte	AXRO	Good Morning show B
6240	Radio Perfekt	AXRO	Dutch pirate songs D
6242	Radio Torenvalk	AXRO,OSCA	Hates Eurovision! [don't we all! ed] NL
6243	Orion	DOSH	Jay Bunkette GB
6244/5	Radio Pandora	AXRO,DOSH,OSCA	70s pop[DOSH], chuckling!![OSCA] GB
6255	Flux	AXRO,OSCA	Jingles, Engl. spoken NL
6256/7	X.T.C.	AXRO,DOSH	Tommy Teabags, rock, indy rock GB
6260	Sierra Sierra	AXRO	logs by Peter Knol, Kylie Minogue GB
6262	Radio Bluestar	AXRO,OSCA	Good signal[OSCA] QSO Continental NL
6262	Continental Radio	AXRO	Polkas, QSO with BlueStar NL
6265	R. Free Enterprise	DOSH	Brummie test see article GB
6265/6	Orion	DOSH	Bogus Jobseeker GB
6265/6	U.K.Radio	BEBR,DOSH,OSCA	Nighttimes also Wed, May 26, 4pm GB
6266	Groovy Granny	DOSH	Weird music! see article GB
6266	Radio Bremen	DOSH	Rock 'n' Roll NL
6266/7	Radio Blackbeard	OSCA	QSO with Sierra Sierra GB
6266/7	Sierra Sierra	OSCA	QSO with R. Blackbeard GB
6270	Alpha Lima Internat'l	DOSH,OSCA,SIGO	pop, Engl. announcements NL
6270	Flux	OSCA	NL+Engl. music/announcements NL
6270	Sierra Sierra	OSCA	News of R.Galaxy etc., GB
6270	Spaceman	DOSH,OSCA	70s pop NL
6275	Orion Radio	DOSH,OSCA	bogus jobseeker GB
6275	Voice of the Nederlands	OSCA	mixed music styles NL
6282	Voice of the Nederlands	OSCA	mixed music styles NL
6282	R.Bluestar	TORE	talking about RR's!!! [zaagh!! ED] NL
6282	Tonair Radio	AXRO	busy hotline, nice show NL
6284	Farmers From Holland	DOSH,OSCA,SIGO	Reverb! Dog on phone in-live!! NL
6284	Milano	DOSH	via Farmers, Nederlandstalige NL
6285	Flux	DOSH	pop NL
6285	A.L. Int'l	OSCA	alt. ch to 6270 NL
6285	Spaceman	AXRO	alt Roxette songs! NL
6287	unid	DOSH	non-stop Judie Tzuke ??
6290	Galaxy International	AXRO,DOSH	Dance, pop, Nights see article GB
6291	XTC	OSCA	met MW pirate at a rally GB
6294/5	Radio Bluestar	DOSH,SIGO	NL. Engl. music NL
6295/6	Galaxy Int'l	AXRO,DOSH,OSCA	regular thurs. eve. tx [OSCA] GB
6295	Reflections Europe	DOSH,OSCA	Religious ranting [DOSH] IRL
6295	Transatlantic R	DOSH,OSCA,TORE	dance, pop music NL
6295	RFL	BEBR,DOSH,OSCA	documentary of offshore forts GB
6296	Sierra Sierra	OSCA	Blackbeard Phoned from Cornwall GB
6298	Radio Bluestar	OSCA	English and Dutch prog NL
6300	Flux	DOSH,OSCA	English and Dutch prog, Pop, Polka NL
6300	Dream FM	OSCA	Dunce music via ? midlands GB
6302	R.Torenvalk	SIGO	Santana music NL
6303	Radio Torenvalk	AXRO,OSCA	mixed music styles, Engl. NL
6305	Sierra Sierra	AXRO,OSCA	Paul Stewart[OSCA] QSO XTC[AXRO] GB
6305/6	Radio Pandora	DOSH,OSCA,TORE	Address given out ... chuckling! GB
6305/6	Radio Bluestar	DOSH,OSCA,SIGO	G.Baker[DOSH], Long Mon. tx[OSCA] NL
6307	Radio Pandora	OSCA	Steve St. John, mentioned our test! GB
6307/8	Radio Bluestar	OSCA,TORE	Harry Lime theme[TORE] NL
6397	Groovy Granny	OSCA	Rock and Pop, mentioned our test! GB
6397/8	R. Free Enterprise	DOSH,OSCA	Test[DOSH] Mr. R.F.Burns[OSCA] GB
6400	R. Argus Int'l	DAFU,DETA,DOSH,TIBA	Test tx, see article. Rock GB
6400	R. Antares Int'l	DAFU,DETA,DOSH,TIBA	Test tx, see article. Speech GB
6400	R. Recharge Int'l	BEBR,DETA,DOSH,TIBA	test tx, see article. Country GB
6400	Laser H H [c]	BEBR,DAFU,DOSH,OSCA	test tx, see article. Rock/pop GB
6935	Groove FM	OSCA	Relay of Midlands dunce stn GB
6940	Soundwave Radio	OSCA	Soft pop from Dublin IRL
6948	Groove FM	OSCA	brummies, alternative ch. to 6935 GB
7120	IRRS	SIGO	with problems I
7120	Radio 510 int	SIGO	Winterfeast USA, some problems I?
7120	Radio Fantasy	SIGO	Ger. phone ins via IRRS? I?
7120	Southern Music R.	SIGO	NZ music via IRRS? I?
7120	Radio Flamingo	SIGO	Engl. Ger. music via IRRS? I?
7306	R. Europe	SIGO	incl. R.Pirata I?
7306	Con frequencia	SIGO	Span. DX via R.Europe? I?
7415	Laser H.H. [b]	DOSH,OSCA	fair signal... sometimes[OSCA] IRL
7446	W.M.R.	AXRO,DOSH,OSCA,SIGO	Men wearing skirts[OSCA] what?ed! GB

7460	Europe 41	SIGO	continuous music	?
7465	Europe 41	SIGO	continuous music	?
7483	RECH/V.O.T.Netherlands	AXRO,OSCA,SIGO	good signal, NL+Engl mix	NL
increasing growth in the high end of this band, above 6900kHz as the MUF goes up.				
11390	Marconi Radio Int.	SIGO	continuous music, Parnorama DX	?
11470	SWRS	DOSH,SIGO	Engl, Ital, music, mailbag, promos	?
plus relays on the same frequency of...				
TIOS	Engl. music	Fantasy Radio Network	Engl, Ger. music	
Textures	Engl. dance	Con Frequencia	Span, #168	
CWR	last programme	WLQ	Engl. music	
Radio Amazonia	Peace+Anarchy!	Highland C.R.	Engl. music	
Dark Pampa Radio	Engl. Span. music	KUOI FM	Engl. music	
Rock If Radio	% Engl. music	FLARS	Span, Engl. music	
Radio Strike	Ital. Engl. music	FRN	Engl, Ger. music	
BCB Radio	Engl. music	Radio Panama	Ger. music	
Subgenius	Engl.Music+Talks	Play dx	Ital. dx contests	
FRSH	Engl. music	Silver Radio	Ital. rock'n'roll	
R. Wonderful	Engl.Ger. music	Yellow Submarine R.	Engl. music	
R. Contrabanda	Catal.Span. talks	H C R	Engl. music	
R. Flamingo Int.	Engl.Ger music	R. Topo	Span. music+talk	
R. Blandengue	Music from LA	R. Metropolis	Engl.Ger. music	
...all logged by SIGO. % = also logged by DOSH, who logged the four below...				
Treasure Island	Oldies	Radio L.A.	S.American stn	
Voice of South Dublin	???	Radio B-92	???	
12256	W.R.Int.	SIGO	Engl. music	GB
15080	UK Radio	OSCA	also on VHF and MW, see article	GB
15065	planned-AMDS	not logged this period	see article	data
15070	planned-R.Argus Int	not logged this period	rock [when M.U.F. gets here!]	GB

As explained elsewhere, much of the mini-band from 15010 to 15075 is useable, and 5 metre CB aerials make excellent disguises! Domestic radios generally go to around 15500kHz.

VHF FM 'Band II' 87.5 - 108 mHz

mHz	Station Name	Logged By	Comments	Town	State
88.1	Buzz FM	TORE	Soul	Manchester	GB
90.2	Vogue	BEBR	Reggae etc..	London	GB
90.9	Overflow Radio	os reports	Rock and psychedelic	Colchester	GB
95.0	Wax FM	TORE	Dunce	Birmingham	GB
99.3	UK Radio	os reports	also on SW and MW	W.Midlands?	GB
99.7	Groove FM	OSCA[SW]	Dunce music, SW relay	Midlands	GB
100.0	Love 100	TORE	Soul	Huddersfield	GB
101.4	Frontline Radio	TORE	Reggae	Manchester	GB
103.5	P.C.R.L.	TORE	Soul	Wolverhampton	GB
105.5	Peoples FM	TORE	Reggae	Leeds	GB
105.6	Kool FM	TORE	Techno	Birmingham	GB
105.8	Kiss FM	TIBA,TORE	Dunce music	Dublin	IRL
106.1	Sound FM	TORE	Soul/Funk	Merseyside	GB
106.3	Future 106	TORE	dance	Manchester	GB
106.3	Choice FM	TORE	dunce	Warrington	GB
106.4	Vibe FM	TIBA,TORE	Dunce music	Dublin	IRL
106.4	CFM	TORE	dance	Merseyside	GB
106.8	Energy 106	TIBA,TORE	pop music	Monaghan	IRL
106.6	Freestyle 2000	TORE	dunce	Manchester	GB
107.0	Premier	TORE	Reggae	Birmingham	GB
107.2	Love FM	TORE	Jungle	Birmingham	GB
107.6	Sting FM	TORE	ragga	Birmingham	GB

Following an appeal by Tim Bass, [and comments apparently made on the internet by 'Rubber' Jonny, that we don't realise that there are other bands], we have decided, as a trial only, to add to our already extensive Long Wave to Short Wave lists, by including some FM.

logger codes this issue

AXRO = AXEL RÖSE, NEUSS.D
 BORD = BORDERHUNTER, BELGIUM.D
 DETA = DEREK TAYLOR, LANCS.GB
 FRDE= FRANK, ROTTERDAM.NL
 HULJ = HUGO LEE JAY, SWANLEY.GB
 OSCA = OSCAR, LONDON.GB
 SIGO = SILVERI GOMEZ, FRAGA.E
 TORE = TOM READ, MACCLESFIELD.GB
 BEBR = BERT BRIDGES, LONDON.GB
 DAFU = DAVE FULLER, LONDON.GB
 DOGH = DOUG SHARRARD, LEICS.GB
 GUGI= GURDIP GILL, WOLVERHAMPTON.GB
 JEBU= JEAN BURNELL, NEWFOUNDLAND.CDN
 PIPI = PIET PIJPERS, ALPHEN A-D-RIJN.NL
 TIBA = TIM BASS, CHESHIRE.GB
 WIHP = WILL PHILLIPS, NOTTINGHAM.GB

OSCAR'S BIT

I'm back now after my trip to the Far East. Because of my travels I was unable to write any stuff for the last issue of Argusnews, but I would like to say thanks to all the people who have responded to my article in the issue before last. This time I'm just going to pick up my pen, jot down some sub-headings and let my thoughts ramble. Feel free to respond with your own input if you wish. Interesting material from you will be included in the next edition.

FREE RADIO - FREE EXPRESSION! ALTERNATIVE RADIO - ALTERNATIVE VIEWS AND CONCEPTS!

BRUNEI

Not too much to mention radio-wise from there, as such, except to mention that I was interested to note that in this small independant state on the island of Borneo, there is a permanent live broadcast of London's Capital FM. The sultan there, who is well known as one of the world's richest men of course, pays for a permanent ISDN feed from London, in order for the service to be re-broadcast there on 100.1mHz. Don't let this put you off though, this guy is well liked and respected by his people, and I found his country interesting and charming, having been there it is clear to me that democracy stinks, and benevolent dictatorships rule ok! I may go into this subject more in the next issue, or on Radio Antares, so listen out!!

EAST MALAYSIA

All radio stations and even the print media are firmly in the grip of a corrupt and distinctly dodgy government, and I have to say that being there makes you begin to think that maybe radio in the UK isn't so bad after all, but then you come to your senses and say: "Noah, it's bad alright!" Don't know if you've heard, but a 'Mad Pig Disease' is spreading fast in Malaysia. It does cross over to humans and has already killed dozens of people, but this is believed to be via mosquitoes rather than eating infected pork. I survived though!

RADIO GALAXY INTERNATIONAL

I first became aware of this project when I heard a QSO between Station Sierra Sierra and a couple of Dutch stations, namely Alpha Lima and Voice of the Netherlands, on 48 metres. SSS operator, Paul Stewart, was announcing that some interesting broadcasts would be taking place, and indeed they did! This was back in mid May. Galaxy is in fact the combined efforts of 3 other stations, namely Blackbeard, SSS and also Mark Perry, who runs an FM station. All Galaxy broadcasts are made from vehicles in remote outdoor locations. This strategy has been adopted in response to the fact that when certain UK radio stations operate from their usual broadcast locations, the inhabitants of neighbouring dwellings become, shall we say... err... mystified... by the dulcet tones of some raving pirate radio operator emerging from every piece of apparatus in the building including the water taps and plug holes! Transmissions are live, with a mobile phone on site for listeners to respond. Their normal regular broadcasts take place on THURSDAY EVENINGS with inverters and a low power rig, and occasionally at weekends, higher powered broadcasts take place using a generator and the Blackbeard rig, which is well in excess of 100 watts! Frequencies can be anywhere on 76 or 48 metres.

I take my hat off to the Galaxy boys for getting off their rear ends and putting together a venture like this, they have had a phenomenal response so far, and look out for other station operators joining them on future transmissions. Bill Live wire and Chuckling Steve St.John being two likely candidates. Now that Galaxy are getting more accustomed to the practicalities of operating the station in this manner, as Paul Stewart was telling me they are, I look forward to some developments in the programme content of the station. My suggestion would be to find a way of putting the live phone calls directly to air in order to do a phone-in discussion show. Music shows would be a let-down and a waste on a station of this nature, and anyway, music radio is for people with no brains [...!! speechless ed]

THE WIZARD'S MAGIC SPELL

One positive aspect to come from doing good free radio is that it inspires other operators to start up, or to keep going, or as in this case, to come back. Having heard the Galaxy thing, our freind The Wizard has decided to return to the airwaves with his station The Magic Spell, after a period of about 9 months of inactivity. We hope the sorcery won't fade away again, because we need stations like this to keep plugging away, a good listen, and as with many of the GB SW stations, The Wizard likes to talk a bit in between the songs. I've listened on a few occasions now on 3947 kHz, he goes out live and gives out a phone number, so when you hear him asking you to call in, do it.

RADIO ARMADILLO

Believed to be a good friend of The Wizard, Armadillo was heard on 5.8 megs a few weeks ago and then... nothing! Word on the street is that a mosfet device in his modulator has blown up, putting him off the air, and that he has been unwilling or unable to rectify the problem. A huge campaign has been launched to facilitate the arrival of a replacement mosfet, and it is hoped that normal service will soon be resumed.

RADIO FREE ENTERPRISE / GROOVY GRANNY

Turns out these two stations are one and the same. Station operator calls himself Mr. R. F. Burns, likes to use R. Free Enterprise more for QSOs and testing purposes, and Groovy Granny for programme broadcasts. Although a recent arrival on the Short Wave scene, my enquiries have indicated to me that this guy has been involved in free radio for many years. We believe him to be an old East London boy who married and moved away ages ago, but not before having been involved in a groovy Medium Wave station in London as well as an excellent West London based FM station called RADIO ALPHA.

This station produced personalities like the unusual Gary Hughes and engineer / presenter Roger Barry, who is still very much in the circuit today if you know where to look for him! The Radio Alpha antenna was notorious for still being there and visible on the top of the towerblock for years and years after the station closed down. Mr. R. F. Burns' new SW service has been noted on 5835 and 6397 kHz this period.

UK RADIO

Not one of my favorite stations on the whole, but they are to be praised for getting the hours in. Bogus Jobseeker is on there sometimes, and he's good. The other day I heard them announce that they were on 99.3MHz, 1404 kHz MW, 6286kHz and 15080 kHz. Has anybody heard them on either MW or 15 megs?

RADIO PANDORA

Whenever I'm in the mood for chuckling on the radio, I always make sure that I tune to Radio Pandora, because Radio Pandora IS Europe's number 1 chuckling station!

Some things have instant appeal, this one took me a while, but now I like it very much. Steve St.John was heard to interrupt the chuckling to say hello to me the other day, and that's much appreciated! Audio was a bit muffled a few weeks back, but things appear to be back to their normal high standard again now. Tends to be on quite early.

XENON TRANSMITTING COMPANY

A number of broadcasts have been heard from XTC this period on various frequencies in the 48 metre sub-band. This continues by all accounts to be one of the top rated UK AM stations which would not be seen dead operating on SSB. My only question is: Why couldn't I have been blessed with a voice like Tommy [Golden Tonsils] Teabags? Why?

RADIO STATION NAMES

My award for the best station name this period goes to the Dutch station 'Doctor Blow Radio', which I heard broadcasting on the rather difficult frequency of 1640 kHz. This channel is, of course, subject to problems from cordless phones on 1642 here in the UK, but the signal was cutting through quite well. Station Names are peculiar things aren't they? In a way you can argue that the station name does not matter that much, and that it is the station's overall performance and output that is important, but on the other hand, choosing a really catchy name at the outset can give the station a real boost. Then there's the question of what type of name you go for, and this will depend on the kind of image you want to create for the station. Do you choose the quirky, zany style of name like Radio Toodlepip, and risk not being taken seriously, or do you have Muff Murfin go to Dallas to produce you jingles like: "You're listening to Dirk Thrust, on Mega-Power FM" and risk sounding pretentious, or do you stick to something bland and neutral like WABC, and risk failing to have the desired impact? Some stations elect to use a name that has been used before, often because of the availability of a jingle package on some East Anglian Productions anorak CD, and my advice to those stations, which is said with no ill feelings or malice is not to go that route, come up with a new name, even if it means working without jingles for a while. On Radio Antares the name was chosen at short notice and with little thought. Antares was the brand name on a large 800 watt inverter which we used for our first ever test broadcast on 1350 kHz back in November 1997. Antares is also the name of a star. It is interesting to note how many stations have an outer space connection, I wonder why that is. I don't consider the Antares name to be a brilliant one, but it has started to establish itself now.

Having said that, one of the beauties of free radio is that you do whatever you want, so if I decided to change it, I would! I would like to hear from you on this subject. How do you, [or would you, or DID you] choose a radio station name? If you were starting a new station now, what name would you choose, and how, if at all, would the name relate to the station's format? I would also like you to tell me, thinking back, of all the stations you have ever heard, what was the best, or most memorable name? To answer my own question, it is difficult to say which I would categorise as the best ever name. You have to separate the merits of the name standing alone, from how much you liked the station as a whole, but perhaps my nomination for a name that always sticks in my mind as catchy and appropriate would be the London FM pirate of a few years ago RADIO SHOESTRING. They had some great jingles as well, [made on a shoestring of course], which really gave the station a unique identity.

RADIO BORDERHUNTER

Good name, good station. Mr. B. has apparently been ill and in hospital for a while, but is now up and about and well again, and hunting across the borders of Europe with strong and clear signals as usual. Heard in recent weeks on 48 and 76 metres, and as I write this on a Tuesday evening, I've just heard him again on 3910khz, followed by some SSB conversations between him and other operators on the same channel. He recently told me that he hopes to try 1.6 mHz at some stage, so listen out for that, but listen out for something else as well: Although from Belgium he speaks mostly in English [Good], but have you noticed the delightful faint growl, which stems from his accent, when he says the word 'Borderhunter'?Fantastic!

SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS

A definite diversion from the norm, but captivating listening. Steve Midnight is one of the outstanding characters of the SW scene. He talks quite a lot, but unless you know his voice it may take a while to figure out that it is him, because he only IDs the station very occasionally. The station has a mailing address, but that goes out once in a blue moon, and the telephone hotline is always open, but don't expect to be given that, only about three people in the whole world know it. I can already hear the cry from those of you who have been brought up on brainless banter DJ radio: "Oh my God! What on earth does he think of to say then?" I've told you, you morons! Things are moving on, and free radio is [sometimes] where progress takes place. Listen and learn!

PIRATE CONNECTION

The new edition of this publication from Sweden is now out, 1 1/2 years after the previous one. Whilst we all know that Stefan is sweetie-pie, [Swedie-pie? ed] I think it would be fair to say that the unusual delay in printing this issue is the main cause of its appeal being slightly less than it might otherwise be. The phrase 'Water Under The Bridge' comes to mind! Best bit is the fine article by old Golden Tonsils of XTC. Stefan has promised to do better from now on, so that's OK, we forgive you... for now! Looking forward to the next issue, sunshine!

RADIO ANTARES

Some engineering work has already been carried out in conjunction with Argus in preparation for a possible regular service by us on SW. If Bert Bridges prints anything about Oscar's guide to lumberjacking technique, just ignore him by the way. Some initial low-power tests have already gone out, with pleasing results, so we may give it a go for a while and see how we like it. Activity on MW has been confined entirely to 1.6megs. Transmissions are averaging about one per week. We do try to do Sundays, but don't always make it, and some weekday evenings we do pop up. Frequencies are either 1650 or 1611khz. We like this sub-band very much, and would like to see other British stations go there more often, as the car-sticker says: '1.6mhz listeners do it after dark', so this time of year, hours are restricted. The format continues to be speech priority programming. Intelligent radio for intelligent listeners, with free radio news and information often included. An encouraging level of listener response continues to come in by letter and telephone. We do reply to all letters, and the reply will include confirmation of a reception report if requested. We are DXer friendly. Our signal has been heard over a huge area, though chances are it won't be strong. Equip yourself with some suitable receiving apparatus, and a whole new dimension in listening opens up to you. I highly recommend loop antennas, mine brings up signals from an inaudible whisper to perfectly clear and readable. We may do a feature on loop antennas in the future. Derek Taylor may be able to advise further, but always send a s.a.e. Incidentally, in our local area we have people listening on deaf tranny radios, ghetto-blasters and such like, and they write in and phone us too!

SHORTWAVE PLANS BY THE ENGINEERING TEAM

We are now in a position to start **SHORTWAVE** services again. Now, to some of our staff and listeners, this may seem a retrograde step, after all, it wasn't so long ago, that we more or less dismissed SW as a load of bleeps and tweets, belonging to the 1920s and 30s, with only the Extra-Sad Anoracks bothering to tune in...

However, since late 1997, we started thinking more closely about SW, and realised that the potential coverage could gain us more listeners, not just the E.S.A.s.

It was the realisation that any 'Ghetto-blaster' type radio with SW as one of its bands could receive these 'Weaker-Than-World-Service' stations, that convinced us to have a go.

One idea that we came up with, involves the use of a 5 metre CB whip, with the loading coil ripped out, and four or five 5-metre wires, to make a scaled up version of an FM ground-plane aerial, resonant on 20 meters, instead of the 3 metres used for FM. With a bit of fiddling, this should work in the 19metre band, where the Middlesborough station had been. Not only that, but by siting it on top of a block, the 'authorities' would think it was a CB aerial and leave it alone, and the signal would cover London by direct-wave! any sky-wave skip would thus be a bonus. This plan still exists today, and when the MUF gets there, we hope to try out 15,070khz, or thereabouts. U.K Radio is already on band, on 15060, and AMDS wants 15065. Any other stations looking at this band may be interested in 15010, 15015, 15020, 15025, 15030, 15035, 15040, 15045, 15050 and 15055... 10 possible 5khz channels, ALL MORE OR LESS CLEAR!

The old methods of using horizontal dipoles obviously do work, and will be followed on the lower bands. However we will not shut our eyes to ideas that 'conventional wisdom' says doesn't work. For example, our 6400 and 5835 broadcasts, following the raid, around Christmas and New Year 1997/1998 came from an aerial on a barn roof, less than a quarter wave high, and laying along the top. True, the signal could have been better, but nonetheless made it to Italy. This array meant the aerial could only be seen by someone actually looking at it, not by a casual glance. Since the New Year, the problem of finding a site has kept us off the air on SW since. Now we have a new plan.

ARGUS & ANTARES

In cooperation with **RADIO ANTARES**, who have the engineering skills, the Argus rigs will be used from a site or sites to be found by either ourselves, or a third partner.

Radio Merlin International, if after July, and / or...

Laser Hot Hits [c], who are keen to go out on SW, are both 'in the frame' for this.

Radio Recharge International will of course be carried, in return for the rig and crystals Tim supplied, as promised. We have been putting Recharge out on our A.R.S.E. Dutch Band 1620/1650 broadcasts anyway, but once we get SW up and running, their programmes every once in a blue moon will present no problem for us.

Viewpoint International will be formed to carry a few hours of Roy Masters' broadcasts, for as long as the current site is in use. This will be continued from Antares' 1611/1650 broadcasts, onto the SW.

...A possible scenario could see Argus on air Saturdays, with Antares on Sundays, the other stations, Laser and/or Merlin, filling out the afternoons. If from the present site, 7pm is to be Viewpoint, a deliberately Anoracky name. 9pm Saturday and Radio Recharge is on, on a loop running to Sunday morning. From about 9am Sunday, it's the turn of Antares, to 7pm, then Viewpoint to 9pm, then either close or 'Afterburner', an up-tempo rock service provided by either Laser or Argus. If we go on weekdays, then Argus and Antares can alternate, and Viewpoint maintain its 7-9pm slot. Anyhow, that's one of the embryonic plans...

The frequency for all this is in the loglist as 5835khz, but even this may be changed, to get away from the massive signal on 5850. It is a good idea to stay above 5800khz, as not all domestic radios tune below there.

Oscar is also interested in the 6900-7000 khz area, and we have used 6400 in successful tests... Watch this space!

DJs wishing to appear on the SW service should let Bert know, as we will be drawing up rosters or rotas for these broadcasts.

Saturdays we hope to eventually get a live service running, with live MW following on Sundays, when Antares will be on on SW.

DXERS. THE LAST WORD [I HOPE!] by Bert Bridges

I didn't receive Kai's 'Interference' magazine no 1, when it first came out, Doug sent me a copy later on, but I knew about one small part of it, when Derek Taylor was on the phone, going ballistic. He later faxed me the offending article, in which the editor said that 'DXers are all mad [hi]'. This got us thinking a bit, and the result was the article 'How to piss off a DXer', in which we attempted to explain the different sorts of letter a station can receive, and how the station should react to those letters. How a reception report can be wrapped up in friendly letter, and still come across better than the stilted standard DX letter, while conveying the same [or better] details about the signal and programming heard.

If there is one thing that pisses off a station that has made the effort and run the risk of getting on the air, it is a list of tracks, times they were heard etc., which tells the station one thing, and one thing only... Not that the DXer was really listening to the station, [They already KNOW what tracks they played, for f@#s sake!] BUT THAT HE ONLY BOthered TO LISTEN FOR A FEW MINUTES!!! And then he has the nerve to ask for verification! P\$EE OFF!

The problem as I see it, is that DXers like that have little or no knowledge of belonging to a free station, and don't see that such reports, while fine if to a licenced station, is an insult to the efforts and risks run by a free station.

Anyway, in 'Put Roger Inside Me' - or PRIM [nice one Derek!] 'Rubber' Jonny A(...)n tried to justify such behaviour in a ridiculous item 'How to piss off an operator' This convinced no one, and, I am therefore going to try and help some confused folk out...

The Article, 'How to identify a DXer' was my response to Rubber Jonny, It aimed to show that not all DXers are a waste of time, some are very helpfull indeed, [and to slim down the loglists with a few deflated egos not sending in reports!]

The article listed different sorts of DXers, and has had a rather funny outcome, with at least five DXers confused as to their identity!

HERE'S a self-test, for all DXers to take.

[TO AVOID FURTHER CONFUSION, NON-DXERS, PLEASE DO NOT BOTHER!]

1 IF HOW LONG DO YOU LISTEN TO A FREE RADIO STATION?
[60mins plus] Good Ole Boy, Damned Nuisance [less than 60mins] All other types

2 DO YOU LISTEN BECAUSE YOU ENJOY THE MUSIC/PROGRAMMES?
[YES] Good Ole Boy [NO] All other types

3 DO YOU ONLY LISTEN FOR QSLs?
[YES] Twat, Damned Nuisance, Blabbermouth [NO] Good Ole Boy, Sneak

4 HAVE YOU EVER REQUESTED A QSL?
[YES] All types but Sneak [NO] Sneak -go to question 6

5 IF YOU DIDN'T GET A QSL, DID YOU EVER REPEAT YOUR REQUEST?
[once] Good Ole Boy [2-5 times] Twat, Blabbermouth [over 5 times] Damned Nuisance

6 IF YOU SEND IN YOUR REPORTS TO RADIO PUBLICATIONS ETC., IS IT...
A [TO GET MORE PEOPLE TUNING INTO A STATION YOU ENJOY] Good Ole Boy
B [TO SCORE POINTS OFF OTHER DXERS] Twat, BlabberMouth, Damned Nuisance.
C [TO GET YOUR NAME INTO AS MANY PUBLICATIONS ETC, AS POSSIBLE] as B,+Sneak

7 IF YOU SEND IN THESE REPORTS TO ALL THESE PUBLICATIONS ETC, DO YOU TELL THE STATIONS YOU ARE DOING SO?
[YES, ALL TIMES] Good Ole Boy, Damned Nuisance
[SOME TIMES, IF I CAN AFFORD POSTAGE] Good Ole Boy, Twat, Blabbermouth
[NO] Sneak

HOPEFULLY THIS WILL SORT THINGS OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL, AND THIS SILLY SUBJECT CAN BE DROPPED. IT NOT ONLY WINDS UP THE GENUINE DXERS, BUT PISSES OF THE NORMAL LISTENERS AND READERS.

BY THE WAY... A man walks into a Doctors surgery. He has a cucumber up his nose, a carrot in his left ear, and a banana in his right ear.
"What's the matter with me, doctor?" he asks.
"you're not eating properly." replies the doctor.